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BOOKS AND PERIODICALS.

Elements of Mechanics, Including Kenematics, Kinetics, and Statics, with Applications. By Thomas Wallace Wright, M. A., Ph. D., Professor in Union College. 8vo. Cloth, 372 pages. Price, \$2.50. New York: D. Van Nostrand Company.

This is a completely rewritten edition of the author's Text-book of Mechanics. The same general plan has been followed, but many changes in detail have made, so the book comes before the public with a new name. In this book much use is made of the graphical method; machines are discussed in great detail; the important subjects of oscillation and rotation have been treated with more fullness than is usual in an elementary treatise. Numerous well chosen problems are appended to the discussion, while at the end of each chapter is added a series of examination questions. Historical notes are freely interspersed to add a more live interest to the subject. This is a very excellent book and we very heartily recommend it to teachers desiring a good work on Mechanics. B. F. F.

The Elements of Physics. A College Text-book. By Edward L. Nichols and William S. Franklin. In three volumes, Vol. II. Electricity and Magnetism. 8vo. Cloth, ix and 272 pages. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Macmillan Co.

In the study of this excellent work a knowledge of the elementary principles of the calculus and quaternions is required. This fact will preclude its use in many colleges. The authors recognizing, however, that there is a growing tendency among the best colleges to increase the requirements in mathematics, these colleges realizing that the discipline received from the study of mathematics is not excelled by any other branch of study, have not slurred over certain parts of Physics containing *real and unavoidable difficulties*. Nor have those portions containing these difficulties been omitted, but they have been faced frankly; the statements involving them having been reduced to the simplest form which is compatible with accuracy. Colleges in which only one course is offered in Physics should at once so adjust their courses of study as to make it possible to use a text-book such as the one before us, as a course of Physics pursued in accordance with the plan of this work will be of infinitely more value both from a practical and an educational point of view, than two or three popular courses requiring only a knowledge of Elementary Algebra and Geometry. B. F. F.

Elements of Plane and Spherical Trigonometry. By C. W. Crockett, Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York. Large 8vo. Cloth, 192 pages and 120 pages of tables. Price, \$1.25. New York and Chicago: American Book Company.

This work is fully up to the standard of good text-books. It contains a full course in Plane and Spherical Trigonometry; in fact, all that is needed in a course in the best schools and colleges. There are many examples and illustrations. The typographical and mechanical execution of the work is first-class. B. F. F.

Darwinism and Non-Euclidean Geometry. Reprint from the Bulletin de La Société Physico-Mathématique de Kasan. Tome VI. No. 3—4. By Dr. George Bruce Halsted. Pamphlet, 4 pages.

This interesting article seems to have been written by Dr. Halsted while visiting at Kasan in July and August of last summer. In his travels he explored many libraries and made many important finds. B. F. F.

The Maine Farmer's Almanac for 1897.

Through the courtesy of Prof. William Hoover, of Athens, Ohio, we received a copy of this noted little Almanac, which, among other important and useful information, contains two pages devoted to Mathematical Questions and Solutions. The price of the Almanac is 10 cents. B. F. F.

Prismoidal Formulae, with Special Derivation of Two-Term Formulae. By Thomas U. Taylor, C. E. (University of Virginia), M. C. E. (Cornell), Associate Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Texas. Pamphlet, 55 pages.

This paper, which was read before the Texas Academy of Science, March, 1896, adds some valuable material to the literature of Prismoidal Formulae. B. F. F.

Mathematical Questions and Solutions. From the "Educational Times," with an Appendix. Edited by W. J. C. Miller, B. A. Vol. LXV., 8vo. Boards, 128 pages. Francis Hodgson, 89 Farringdon Street, E. C., London.

This valuable reprint contains solutions of about 165 problems. Our readers who secure it will find many interesting problems with their solutions. The price is 5s., 3d., postpaid. J. M. C.

Elementary Hydro-Statics. University Tutorial Series. By William Briggs and G. H. Bryan. Cloth, 208 pages. Price, 50 cents. New York: W. B. Clive, 65 Fifth Avenue.

This work is written in a suggestive and attractive manner. In scope and in method it is admirably adapted to class use as an elementary text. In the examples results are deduced from first principles, and thus the student is not lead to rely on memory for his formulae. The new features are good, the examples are numerous and well selected, and the topical index convenient and useful. J. M. C.

Inductive Manual of Straight Line and Circle. By William J. Meyers, Professor of Mathematics, State Agricultural College of Colorado. Published by the Author, Fort Collins, Colorado, 1896. 113 pages. Price, 60 cents.

The fundamental idea of the book seems to be to furnish the student the tools and material, and by the aid of helpful questions where needed, to have him work up his ideas for himself, in all cases leaving some actual work and thought to the student himself. As distinguishing features we notice: A constant effort to keep prominent the connection between geometrical relations and their applications in the arts; the early introduction and use of the notions of locus and of symmetry; distinction between the obverse and reverse of plane figures; and the closeness of relation between regular chains, polygons, and the circle. There are numerous exercises and problems. It must be left to actual trial to determine its adaptation to class use. J. M. C.

The Alumni Bulletin of the University of Virginia, for November, contains an appreciative sketch, with portrait, of our esteemed subscriber, Professor Charles Scott Venable, LL. D., who lately retired from the head professorship of mathematics at the University of Virginia, a position he has held for over thirty years. J. M. C.

We have received the following valuable papers, in pamphlet form, from Dr. Artemas Martin, editor of the *Mathematical Magazine*: "About Cube Numbers whose Sum is a Cube Number"; About Biquadrate Numbers whose Sum is a Biquadrate Number"; Notes about Square Numbers whose Sum is either a Square or the Sum of other Squares"; On Fifth-Power Numbers whose Sum is a Fifth Power"; and "Solutions of the 'Duck' Problem." Those interested in the subjects of which these papers treat cannot afford to miss them.

The last number of the *Magazine*, issued in May, 1896, contains the paper on Biquadrate Numbers, and the second installment of that on Cube Numbers. Three interesting problems are solved and ten new ones are proposed. J. M. C.

The following periodicals have been received : Journal de Mathématiques Élémentaires, (1er December, 1896) ; American Journal of Mathematics, (October, 1896) ; The Mathematical Gazette, (October, 1896) ; L' Intermédiaire des Mathématiciens, (November, 1896) ; Miscellaneous Notes and Queries, (December) ; The Kansas University Quarterly, (October, 1896) , The Monist, (October, 1896) ; Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society, (December, 1896) ; The Educational Times, (November, 1896) ; The Mathematical Review, (July, 1896) ; The Mathematical Magazine, (No. 10, issued in May, 1896) ; Annals of Mathematics, (September, 1896).

J. M. C.

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B. F. FINKEL and J. M. COLAW, Editors.

ERRATA.

On page 221, for "numbers" read *terms* in line 16.

In solution of problem 42, page 220, the part under Example 2, reading, "For $p-q$, $a=9/2$, $b=13/2$, etc.," should be under Example 1, to tally with "for $p+q$, etc."

Page 234, line 5, for " ρ^{-1} " read $\rho^{-\frac{1}{2}}$.

Page 234, line 5, for $\sqrt{\rho+\rho}$ read $\rho+1/\rho$.

Page 243, line 5, omit decimal point in denominator.

Page 258, in Figure, read D for " B " and B for " D ".

Page 259, multiply the numerator of the right hand member in the value of p by 2.

Page 288, problem 38, the figure is wrong. The arc CE should be *parallel* to BA , as the solution says. Also, BC , which is an arc of the horizon, should be in a level plane.